



## **Summer 2006 Professional Development Opportunities!**

### **Writing to Win® in South Dakota**

#### **Journal Writing and Process Writing**

**Phases 1 and 2 of the Writing to Win® System for teaching writing**  
**Warren E. Combs, Ph.D.**

	<b>Phase 1</b>	<b>Phase 2</b>
<b>Who:</b>	Teachers and administrators whose priority is improved student writing	Those who've completed Phase 1 of the <i>Writing to Win</i> ® training
<b>What:</b>	<i>Journal Writing for Critical Thinking Across the Curriculum</i> (Dr. Combs and ESA)	<i>Process Writing for Informing and Creating</i> (Dr. Combs)
<b>When:</b>	<b>June 13 – 15, 2006</b>	<b>June 11 – 13, 2006</b>
<b>Where:</b>	Holiday Inn Convention Ctr. 1525 West Havens St. Mitchell, SD 605-996-6501	Holiday Inn Convention Ctr. 1525 West Havens St. Mitchell, SD 605-996-6501
<b>Why:</b>	Because you want students to think critically about what they are learning in your classes every day	Because you want students to become independent, authentic writers at each step of the writing process

Based on the major research strands in the teaching of writing, the **Writing to Win® System** has begun answering the following questions for South Dakota teachers across the curriculum.

*Given our time constraints, how do we get our students to engage in authentic writing about topics across the curriculum?"*

*What can make students write out what they've learned as a regular routine for learning?*

*What can improve their writing scores?*

*What can develop our classes into communities of writers?*

*Writing to Win*® appeared first in Emery and Flandreau, then in 33 pilot districts in 2005-2006. It provides a comprehensive system of tools for journal writing (year 1), process writing (year 2), and grammar instruction (year 3). Each set of tools helps you do what research has shown improves student writing most effectively. If you're ready to learn, we're ready to lead. Join the statewide initiative to help students write their best.

**Writing to Win® is designed for teams of teachers from each school to be trained as writing coaches in their local schools.** In 2 ½ days, participants will learn the keys to teaching effective writing.

**What results can you expect?** Research shows that students do 30% better on tests of knowledge in courses that implement a student self-check routine like the one you will learn at the workshop. Here is a typical impact of the *Writing to Win®* model: When students completed two short writing assignments a week in every class, their pass rate in a middle school on a state writing test increased from 66% to 91% in a single year! The pass rate at a high school moved up from 74% to 98% in three years. See [www.writingtowin.com](http://www.writingtowin.com) for more details.

**Writing to Win® I (journal writing) will be offered June 13 - 15.** It presents the tools needed for energizing instruction in short writing across the curriculum. The objective is writing fluency. Researchers agree that young writers must write fluently before we teachers can help them become the refined creators of reports, essays and extended fiction.

***There's nothing like unsolicited E-mail messages to clearly see the impact Writing to Win® Journal Writing is already having in SD!***

Year 1: Phase One of *Writing to Win®* trains students to be fluent thinkers in a dozen critical thinking strategies.

- "I have to tell you that I was apprehensive and yet excited and challenged with the idea of journaling. Since using these strategies in the classroom, I think I just might be "hooked!" Thanks for the great help!"
- "It's so easy for the Writing to Win® journaling to succeed. The student self-assessment takes the burden of motivation off of me. And my administrators love to see the Log of Entries filling up on classroom walls."
- "Since my FACS students started journaling three times a week, I'm amazed at how much better they are in class discussions. You were right. Through their journaling, they're becoming a community of learners. I think they're doing better on tests, too."
- "We surprised ourselves at how well we trained our fellow teachers to set up the journal writing in their classes. Our teacher's manuals and charts arrived early, thanks for your model presentation and the helpful materials."

**Writing to Win® II (process writing) will be offered June 11 - 13.** It presents the tools needed for giving students the power to make good choices about writing at each step of the writing process. Research shows that clearly defined teacher expectations for each step of the process assure authentic and articulate writing from students.

Year 2: Phase Two of *Writing to Win®* trains students to be confident users of tools, such as advance organizers and rubrics, in their writing. Teachers and administrators who have completed the Year 1 training are invited to Year 2 training: *Writing to Win® Process Writing*. Comments from South Dakota educators who have experienced phase two.

- "Process writing is more comprehensive than journaling for sure, but *Writing to Win®* makes process writing more simple for teachers and students than any other writing program I've seen in my career."
- "*The Writing Cycle* is an ingenious idea. It really does get students to write more and teachers to grade less. Letting students start several first drafts before picking their best one to publish makes such sense!"
- "Our content area teachers found several ways to use the *advance organizers*. They help my students take class notes with more insight and imagination."
- "Process writing is almost as simple and easy to follow as journal writing. I'm using *Writing to Win®* with pride, but boy, I wish we'd met 25 years ago!"

Schools, grades 5-12, should send teams of *three* teachers and/or administrators. Team member roles will be to return to their school district and implement the concepts learned, as well as to serve as writing coaches for other teachers.


The training schedule **Writing to Win® Coaches Phase II Session** is as follows:  
Mitchell Holiday Inn Convention Center:

Sunday, June 11	Registration/Orientation	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Monday, June 12		8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday, June 13		8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The training schedule **Writing to Win® Coaches Phase I Session** is as follows:

Tuesday, June 13	Registration/Orientation	7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday, June 14		8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 15		8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Please bring the following resources for the workshop:**

- \_\_\_ copy of the writing curriculum from **your** district/school
- \_\_\_ sample teacher's textbook for grade level related to your area 
- \_\_\_ laptop computer (your option; we'll have outlets for you)
- \_\_\_ curriculum maps, if available

**Registration is limited to 25 schools/teams of 3 = 75 participants for each session.**

**FAX FORM to: 605-773-4950; OR Register online at:**  
<http://www.southdakotapd.com/registration.asp> 

**COST:** The workshop materials will be \$65 for each session. Lunch will be on your own, breaks provided. Travel & hotel costs are the responsibility of your school district. Please make your own hotel reservations ASAP. Blocks of motel rooms are on-hold as Dept. of Ed./Writing to Win®, at both Hampton Inn, 995-1575; and the Holiday Inn, 996-6501. June is tourist season, so hurry!

***One NSU College or Renewal credit is available for each session. Tuition rate for undergraduate/graduate is \$59.<sup>00</sup> per credit (subject to change).***

For more information:  Contact Marsha Kucker at 605-367-7680 or email at [mkucker@edec.org](mailto:mkucker@edec.org) or Faith Ellis at 773-7030, [faith.ellis@state.sd.us](mailto:faith.ellis@state.sd.us) 

**Registration Deadline is Fri. May 26, 2006.** 

***Sponsored by the South Dakota Department of Education,  
Office of Career and Technical Education, High Schools that Work  
and Making Middle Grades Work***